



Obama's got acid reflux

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Reuters

FEELING SORE: US President Barack Obama is suffering from acid reflux, tests show.

US President Barack Obama, who had medical tests after complaining of a sore throat, is suffering from acid reflux, the president's physician says.

"The president's symptoms are consistent with soft tissue inflammation related to acid reflux and will be treated accordingly," Obama's doctor, Captain Ronny Jackson, said in a statement on Saturday (local time).

Acid reflux is a condition in which the stomach contents flow back up from the stomach into the oesophagus, causing such symptoms as heartburn and sore throat.

Obama, 53, went to Walter Reed military hospital for a fiber optic exam of his throat and since swelling was detected, doctors decided to perform a CT scan as well, Jackson said.

"The CT scan was conducted this afternoon purely as a matter of convenience for the President's schedule. The CT scan was normal," Jackson added.

Jackson said he recommended Obama go to Walter Reed for the tests after the president complained of suffering from a sore throat over the past couple of weeks.

Jackson did not give any cause for Obama's case of the illness. There are many risk factors for acid reflux, including smoking, use of alcohol and hiatal hernia, according to the US National Library of Medicine. Most people respond to lifestyle changes and medicines, although many patients need to continue on medication to control their symptoms.

Obama had his annual physical exam in June and was given a clean bill of health by Jackson, who noted in a medical report that daily exercise, healthy eating and a tobacco-free lifestyle had helped the president stay in great shape. The president is a former smoker.

- Reuters

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